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The Yankee in Dutchland

By H. K. LANDIS

The arrival of the wagon of the Yankee peddler was an event in the life of the early settlers of Penn's woodland. The land lying eastward of the Blue Ridge was rich and the industrious settlers from the Rhineland were prosperous. It was a good market and the trade grew to considerable proportions. So, today, here in Pennsylvania, the antique collectors buy with avidity those "dutch" articles which were made in the early days of the Republic in large quantities in Connecticut or Massachusetts. Massachusetts made more rum out of molasses than all the other states together, and much of this was used in the dutchland as an alcoholic beverage and later in the kitchen. Even where the surplus of rye went to make rye whiskey the demand for rum persisted and it could be bought in country stores at three cents for a small tin-cupful.

It was the same with clocks and other products. Stiegel sent glass to Boston and the Sandwich plant sent glass to Pennsylvania; dutch clock-makers made many tall clocks but the people bought Connecticut clocks in such quantities that here they are today easily obtainable. When the Yankee clocks began to come out by the million at a low price, the dutch clock makers were making tall clocks at a fairly good price, but such competition could not last long. Even the more expensive Terry and banjo clocks found buyers as long as they were "in style". Probably the first timepieces here were the European wall clocks without cases. The early peddlers carried the works only, on horseback at first, and purchasers provided cases if they wanted them. Later the smaller clock was devised and, in a two-horse covered spring-wagon, were peddled through the Middle and Southern

States. It is said that Eli Terry was the originator of the small clock, beginning their manufacture about 1793,



A SHAD PEDDLER
of a few generations ago

at Plymouth, Conn. The wooden works gave way to the stamped-out brass wheels and works about 1840. The clock peddler was a necessary adjunct to country life in Pennsylvania's dutchland; in his wagon were other wares, and he also mended clocks, although this was principally the work of itinerant repairers. These clock peddlers were interesting characters, made big profits, left their customers in good humor—and yet never studied what we today call "high-pressure salesmanship". Those interested in

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An Ingenious Fly Trap

By LAWRENCE B. ROMAINE

"The Edson Revolving Fly Trap, Patent Applied for. Hudson, Mass. The Edson Manufacturing Company, Sole Manufacturers, Boston Office, 53 High Street. Directions. Mix a little vinegar with slow molasses and put upon the center of each side of the cylinder in a straight line one-half of an inch wide, stopping three-fourths of an inch from each end. Wind up and place where desired. The flies, alighting upon the dry space and feeding from the edges of their food supply, will be slowly but surely carried to inevitable destruction. To kill the flies, unhook the wire cage and pour hot water through the screening or dust some insect powder among them and when dead remove from the bottom of the cage which is pivoted. The dead flies are valuable food for poultry, fish in aquariums and some varieties of cage birds. Do not permit the cylinder to become so thickly coated as to clog the scraper causing too great a strain on the movement, but clean occasionally. Oil the upright spiral with a drop of sewing machine oil when required."

The two cuts show this delightful contraption and its various parts. If the brain that conceived it and put it together had turned to explosives and the tools of warfare, perhaps the Civil War would have entirely wiped out the United States!

I shall try to explain each part from the cut showing the various sections. The main box contains clock-works that run the hollow, oblong, so-called "cylinder", on which the flies are tempted with molasses, and are partitioned from the "prison". The "prison" or rest of the main box, where the flies find themselves scraped off the cylinder and caged in a box, is square. The cylinder fits into its place

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in slots, one end connecting with the clock-works. It is slightly depressed in the center of each surface, so that the molasses will not gum up the scraper, if the directions are followed and the bait not put on too thickly. As the cylinder revolves, the edge of each of its four surfaces just misses the upper edge of the convex glass at the left side of the main box. Hence the flies, feeding on the various surfaces, are carried under the glass before they notice that the whole thing is a snare and a delusion and that there is no Utopia after all. I must confess that I wasted many an hour last summer in the kitchen watching this fascinating contrivance and its sinister work. IT DOES CATCH FLIES. Some of them are so intrigued by the slow moving merry-go-round which they find themselves on that they stay right on until the scraper takes its toll and leaves them in utter darkness. There is but one escape from the dungeon. This is found in a small opening, enclosed with a cone of wire mesh, that leads into the screen cage at the right end. Once in the cage there is no more to do but take off the cage and boil them and feed them to whatever you will, fish, fowl, or canaries, as directed.

My explanation is anything but scholarly and I hope my readers will be able to follow the attempt. I thought of several improvements that I should like to be able to suggest to the inventor if he were available. When the flies are caught in the main box, a few of them, being discerning fellows, can catch a glimmer of light through the slits in which the cylinder and scraper revolve and wend their way to freedom. I'll admit that only a few of them seem to be real thinkers, but it is nevertheless a serious drawback, which should have been detected. Another trouble is that, when the festive board is quite full and there are many others trying to catch the train, there is too much fighting and confusion. This takes their minds off their meal and they perceive the approaching edge of the glass and leave. This is very disconcerting to the prospective chicken-farmer and fish fancier. I would suggest that the whole machine be made about two feet square, giving space for a cylinder that could accommodate its guests more adequately. This is true of hotels and eating houses all over the world. People and flies do not like to wait for their food.

To sum up, we all have our hobbies and various time-wasting amusements. I have discovered nothing here for the collector or the student of early American industry. I have merely tried to explain what I consider one of the most amusing gadgets ever in-



FLY TRAP
(ready for action)

vented and I recommend it to one and all. For entertainment, it beats the race track and the dog track and is much, much cheaper. (On second thought, there *was* one afternoon when I lost a few pennies betting on certain flies and whether we would get them



FLY TRAP
(taken apart)

or not.) However, the inventing of such gadgets *was* an industry, and pushing them out to the public, just as it is now, *was* enterprise. Though I have no records of the output of the Edson Manufacturing Co., I do not doubt they made many other interesting things.

Diderot in England

By JOSEPH E. SANDFORD

Under the heading "An English Diderot?" there appeared in THE CHRONICLE for March, 1937, a description of three engravings of industries. Above each plate was the legend "Engraved for the Supplement" and below "Printed for F. Hinton in Newgate Street." The sheets

were ten by sixteen inches and numbered in the upper left corners. Plate XIX was "Dye-house," XXVII "Hat," and XXXIX illustrated rope-making and was copied from Diderot. Were these relics from a great work similar to the famous *French Encyclopedia*? That was the question and it is a pleasure to report that the answer will be found in what follows.

The first half of the eighteenth century might be called a time of prologues. England was acting its prologue to that acceleration called "The Industrial Revolution." The new learning was bearing fruit in a very practical way—in new inventions. The prosperous classes of manufacturers and tradesmen were increasing.

In 1728, the Englishman Ephraim Chambers made a sort of inventory and called it *Cyclopedia*. Four years later the Abbé La Pluche reviewed nature and industry for the young Frenchman, in his *Spectacle de la Nature*.

In January, 1747, John Hinton, a London publisher at the sign of the King's Arms, in St. Paul's Churchyard, issued the first number of a magazine designed to interest the industrialists and tradesmen, as well as the gentlemen. The new world of commerce and manufactures was to be dealt with in *The Universal Magazine of Knowledge*. Hinton was eclectic. If he found a plate which suited him he had it reengraved. He started this practice early—"Ribbon weaver in his Loom" having been stolen from volume six of La Pluche.

France lacked a work like Chambers' *Cyclopedia*, so the publisher Lebreton sought to supply the need in the simplest way—by translating it—a safe and frugal process and not fraught with great commercial dangers. But a hack writer named Denis Diderot had other ideas. He was an enthusiast for the new learning and succeeded in winning Lebreton to his most ambitious scheme—an *Encyclopedia* which was to embrace practically every department of knowledge. For us the fact that it was to be the treasure house of French Industry is important. John Morley says that it was the first work to proclaim the greatest principle of modern society,—the honor that is owed to productive industry. An elaborate prospectus was issued in 1750 and, in May of that year, it would seem that Hinton had discovered another source—*The Universal Magazine* printed *An Essay of*

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the *Usefulness of Arts and Sciences*, using as a text two lines from Prior—

"Content of Spirit must from science flow;
For 'tis a god-like attribute to know."

and on the facing page—*Proposals For Printing by Subscription in One Volume Folio, a New and Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences*.

There is a trace of larceny in the title of the new dictionary from Ephraim Chambers' *Cyclopædia, or, an Universal Dictionary of the Arts and Sciences*.

The proposed work was to be illustrated with a great number of copper plates, "Engraven by the best hands." Three sheets, stitched up in blue paper were to be delivered weekly to the subscribers, at the price of six pence a number, and the copper-plates,— "which are large and expensive, shall each be reckoned as one sheet of Letter-press." The first number was to be published on Saturday, May 4th, 1751, and the whole work was to be continued every Saturday morning, without interruption, until the whole was finished. Subscriptions were to be "taken in" for the proprietors, by J. Hinton, at the King's Arms, St. Paul's Church-Yard, London. In January, 1752, Hinton had changed his address; shop sign and all, he had moved to nearby Newgate Street. In June of the same year, a note in *The Universal Magazine* read—"A translation of all the discoveries and improvements in the *Encyclopédie* published at Paris, by M. Diderot, will be inserted in this New Dictionary of Arts and Sciences."

By June 16th, 1753, the dictionary was completed in one hundred and ten parts and illustrated with sixty-two copper-plates. It was dedicated to the Right Hon. the Earl of Macclesfield. The Earl was an astronomer, wealthy and—most important for dedication purposes—the president of the Royal Society.

The New and Universal Dictionary seems to have met with success, for, on December 22nd, 1753, a full-page advertisement—"Proposals for a Supplement"—was printed in *The Universal Magazine*. The purpose of the supplement was to "render the Dictionary complete, and contain, among other branches of learning, a complete system of mechanics, manual arts, and manufactures, which though so eminently useful to society, and so long desired, has never before been at-

tempted in the English language." This indicates that the first volume was without notice of the crafts.

The first number of the Supplement was issued in February, 1754, and completed by March of the following year. It was in sixty parts and was "illustrated with above forty copper-plates, eleven of which are finely coloured from Nature." This was an increase of ten more than originally planned.

Seven plates from the Supplement are in the technicological library at Fonthill, Doylestown, Pa.—Plate II, "Anchor"; VII, "Brew-house"; XII, "Calico-printing"; XIX, "Dye-house"; XXVI, "Harbour"; XXIX, "Malt-distillery"; XXXV, "Plough, etc."; XXXIX, "Rope-making".

THE CHRONICLE'S query mentions "F. Hinton." The engraved script "J" is easily mistaken for an "F". We also find "I. Hinton"—the "I" and "J" being used for the same letter. But as the name is spelled out on the engravings in *The Universal Magazine* and the address is the same, the conclusion is inescapable that the three engravings mentioned are from the Supplement of *A New and Universal Dictionary of the Arts and Sciences*, published by John Hinton, the King's Arms, Newgate Street, London, 1754-1755.

By way of a post-script, according to the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (11th ed.), Sir Joseph Ayloffe issued proposals for an English translation of the *Encyclopédie*, to be finished by Christmas, 1756, in ten volumes quarto, with at least six hundred plates. This was on December 14th, 1751, seven months after Hinton's advertisement. Number one of the Ayloffe project appeared in January, 1752, but met with little success.

The Diderot influence is shown in another English work of reference—*The New Royal and Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences*, published by C. Cook of No. 17 Paternoster Row, London, in 1789. Copper engravings bearing this legend and also "Engraved for the Royal Encyclopedia" are in the library at Fonthill. Those which have been compared show them to be copied from the French Encyclopedia.

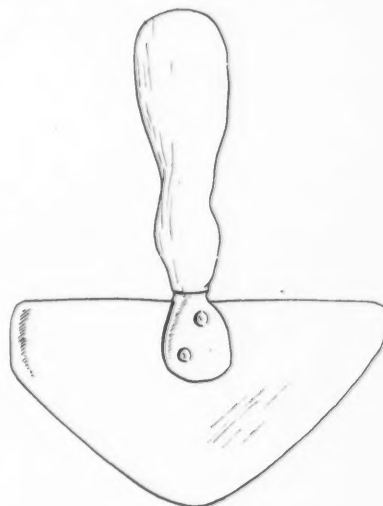
As claimant to the title of an English Diderot, the so-far unidentified work, of which fourteen plates are in the library at Fonthill, should win

over the contenders mentioned. The broken series runs from plate CIX, "Ribband Weaver's Loom", to CXLVI on the woolen industry. The size of each print is approximately eleven and seven-eighths inches by six and seven-eighths inches.

So we have solved one minor mystery to find another in its place. Research is like that, an eternal life of questions to be answered, a land fruitful and without finality.



In the article "Early American Manufacture of Felt Hats", the first instalment of which appeared in our Number 2, Volume I, the author stated that "the fur proper was then cut off



HATTER'S FUR KNIFE

[the skin] with a smaller knife of circular form such as used by harness-makers in cutting leather, nearly in the form of a pruning knife," but confessed that no example of this knife had been found and identified, and hence it could not be illustrated. We have just learned that the Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, Vermont, is in possession of a hatter's bow—a rare article in itself—and a knife, acquired from the same source as the bow, carrying the tag, "Knife to pare fur from the pelt." Through the courtesy of Miss Florence Cragin Allen, the curator, we are able to present here an illustration of this knife. Although conceivable, it is highly improbable that the person who wrote the tag was mistaken. At all events, this is the best evidence on the subject which has thus far been brought to light.

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this intriguing subject will do well to read *Hawkers and Walkers in Early America* by Richardson Wright, a Lippincott book printed in 1927. The fact that this feature in country life no longer is in evidence makes it unusually entertaining. Both in New England and Pennsylvania manufacturing received special attention. Massachusetts became celebrated for its fisheries and products; the Susquehanna shad also were commercially important in Penn's colony, but salted mackerel, smoked herring, fish oil and whale oil (New England products) were in constant demand in Pennsylvania. In fact the Yankee peddler wagons were a frequent sight on the dutch-country roads.

Therefore, many of our so-called dutch antiques are really New England products, or imported from England or Central Europe. Nevertheless, they were made for the dutchland trade and represent that local culture. Lower prices and perhaps a better style drove out local manufacture here, but there was also a tendency toward "styles" so that types came in waves, one succeeding the other, the old giving way to the new, so that we here had a great variety of products which later became "antiques" associated with the famed dutchland, from Lancaster and adjacent counties in Pennsylvania, regardless of their origin or maker. Possession is nine-tenths of the antique law as well. When tinware came to be made into domestic utensils, it arrived in caravans of wagons from New England and almost displaced the pewter, copper and iron ware of the former period. First it was heavy tin ware, then came light and cheap tin plate, such as was later retailed by the 5-and-10-cent stores, and now we have enameled and aluminum ware, very little being of local manufacture. Pottery and stoneware lingered but is on the wane, so the antique collector need not fear for material to fill his shelves and absorb his financial surplus, if any.

The point that might be stressed is that it is more important to know where and when a thing was used than where it was made. The colonies imported many manufactured articles and exchanged for them materials used in manufacture. But, these articles were made to suit the desires and needs of the section where they

were used and thus were they a part of the local culture. Our "gaudy dutch" china was made in England and Germany and yet we get blamed for it. Although this is not a vital matter, it is nevertheless important. When an article is accused of unnecessary crudity, is the user or the maker to blame? Is dutch clumsiness or Yankee lack of skill to be criticised? As a matter of fact, neither, as the state of the art was neither better nor worse than the development of the people themselves.

In dutchland, the thunderous rumbling of the laden Conestoga freighters, accompanied by the chiming of team bells and the cracking of whips, told of flour, flax and hemp, linseed oil, rye whiskey, crockery and other products of the soil, woods or mines going to seaports and New England. In those sections, the two-horse covered wagon, filled with wooden ware, cotton goods, household utensils, tinware, spices, and other small manufactured articles, with a bell or horn or strong voice to announce its approach, was a common sight. Perhaps it was a wagon bearing whale oil, salted or dried fish, fish oil, pine tar shipped from Carolina pine swamps, or turpentine. Thus a trade developed which was to the advantage of both sections and was the main source of wealth in that golden era. However, it would be a mistake to say that either section was dependent on the other. Both had wood to be made into necessary implements. Both had their potters, glass makers, distillers, tanners, and similar industries, but the purchaser bought where he could make the best bargain. And so the Yankee clockmaker ate up the dutch clockmaker, until the big watch factories ate up both.

So it was with the tanners and their tanneries. They made good leather and "took their time",—one could not rush a tanner. But where today are the bark-peelers, the limed tan-vats, the strong smelling preparing sheds and the patent-leather dryers? The big stone chaser mills for shredding bark are gone and the old horse who made its ceaseless rounds is now soil. Today the shoemaker does not sit on a bench and with waxed thread and awl sew all day that his family may eat. It is a segregated industry. We should think of these things, for Progress is a juggernaut that crushes those who lag and abandons those who will not keep up. It is the great economic

problem of the day. If we are to learn from history, why not look back into our own early days and ways and follow the trades and businesses up to the present—and into the future? Whence came we, where are we and whither are we going? It is a study in economics in which the teaching of experience during early days is an index to our trend today. The great Conestoga and the rattling peddler's wagon are swept away by the onward march of Progress, and the railroads in turn groan under the competition of trucks as carriers. Even today we are feeling out the pathless reaches of the air for more speed. What will the future be? We of the Landis Valley Museum like to muse upon these things, for there is just a chance that there is a peak in this march of Progress and a downward slope on the other side.

The Rural Magazine of 1819 contained the following informal advertisement:

"Our inventive countrymen have exercised their ingenuity upon almost every object susceptible of improvement. They have invented or improved labor saving machines, from the spinning jenny to the churn to the washing machine. And, although the mobs of English Manufacturers and laborers may demolish them, as the means of depriving them of the privilege of working, the ladies of Conn., at least, are willing to be relieved from the weekly toil of washing their families. The mechanical ingenuity of Col. William Wadsworth, of this city, has long been known to our citizens; and, as is usually the case, but very slenderly rewarded. Although he has exercised his genius upon more exalted objects, it could be applied to few more in common use than the 'washing machine'. The people have been so abominably cheated and gulled by the endless variety of these machines, it is difficult to attract their attention to any one, however excellent. Almost every bungler who can make a lumber-box or an ox-sled has invented them and most of them require the power of the ox to use them at all. It is useless to describe this machine as anyone who might buy one would want to see it in operation. This they may do at Cap't. Wadsworth's house in Front Street or at Mr. Daniel Mill's Tavern, Knox's Lane."—L. B. R.

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Early American Industries Association

LEWIS N. WIGGINS, President,
Northampton, Mass.

BURTON A. KOLLMER,
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c/o Staten Island Historical
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Admissions Committee,
144-54 Sanford Avenue,
Flushing, N. Y.

Chairman,
Recruiting Committee,
Not yet appointed.

Communications should be addressed
as follows: Pertaining to the contents
of *THE CHRONICLE*, to W. B. Sprague.
Applications for membership, to S. E.
Gage. Suggestions of prospective
members, to the Recruiting Committee.
Other matters to Burton A. Kollmer.
Addresses as here given.

W. B. SPRAGUE, Editor.
43 Cedar St., New York, N. Y.

Our Purpose

The purpose of the association is to encourage the study and better understanding of early American industry, in the home, in the shop, on the farm, and on the sea, and especially to discover, identify, classify, preserve and exhibit obsolete tools, implements, utensils, instruments, vehicles, appliances and mechanical devices used by American craftsmen, farmers, housewives, mariners, professional men and other workers.

Dues

The annual dues are payable September 1st, and are as follows: Regular members \$1.00; Contributing members, \$2.00; Supporting members, \$5.00; Sustaining members, \$10.00, and up. There is no distinction between the classes, except the amount of the dues, but the publication of *THE CHRONICLE* cannot be financed unless a considerable number of the members pay more than \$1.00. Each member is expected to voluntarily place himself in the class which represents the amount he is willing to contribute to the support of the Association for the current year. *THE CHRONICLE* is sent to all members without additional charge. Many of the back numbers may be secured from the Treasurer for 20c each, and a twelve-page index to the twenty-four numbers of Volume I, containing a useful bibliography, for \$1.00 each. For further information, address any of the officers.

Annual Meeting

By BURTON A. KOLLMER

The annual meeting of the Association was held at Wiggins' Tavern, Northampton, Mass., on Friday, August 26th, 1938. After an informal get-together and dinner, the meeting was called to order at 9 p.m., with President William B. Sprague in the Chair. The Treasurer's report was as follows:

INCOME	
Balance, Sept. 1, 1937	\$ 68.68
Membership Dues	763.80
Sale of Back Numbers of THE CHRONICLE	55.75
Donations	1.50
Advertising76
Received for Cut in THE CHRONICLE	3.00
Sale of Membership List20
Index Publication Fund	196.85
	\$1,090.54

EXPENDITURES	
Printing	\$777.72
Stationery and Postage	138.11
Secretarial Service....	7.50
Trucking and Ex- press to Antique Shows	12.88
Refunds	1.80
Telegram68
	\$ 938.69
Balance, Sept. 1, 1938	\$ 151.85

With another issue of *THE CHRONICLE* to be published, the balance shown by this report will be considerably diminished. However, with the successful financing of the Index to Vol. 1, the year has been one of much satisfaction. About seventy-five new members joined during the year.

Several encouraging letters from members who could not attend were read: one in particular from Wallace K. Brown, of Montclair, New Jersey, who announced a regional meeting for New Jersey sometime in September. This type of meeting is favored by the Association and it is hoped that others will undertake to foster such gatherings. Mr. Howard G. Hubbard, as Chairman of the Recruiting Committee, spoke at length on the value of these local groups and pointed out the opportunity that they furnished for inviting new members.

The following officers were duly elected for the forthcoming year: President, Lewis N. Wiggins, private collector, of Northampton, Mass.; Secretary-Treasurer, Burton A. Kollmer, Curator of The Staten Island Historical Museum; Chairman of the Admissions Committee, S. Edson Gage, private collector, of Flushing, N. Y., and Bantam, Conn. Due to the increased demands on his time by an educational venture, Howard G. Hubbard declined reappointment as Chairman of the Recruiting Committee, and it was voted that President Wiggins be empowered, at his convenience, to appoint a new chairman to succeed Mr. Hubbard. A rising vote of thanks was given to William B. Sprague, as an expression of appreciation for his untiring work as President. Mr. Sprague spoke briefly regarding *THE CHRONICLE* and appealed to the entire membership to contribute articles for publication. This is a definite part of the duties of membership and all members should realize their responsibility for cooperating in the continued publication of *THE CHRONICLE*.

The question of incorporation was discussed and it was voted to have the Association incorporated in the State of New York, this procedure to be handled by the Executive Committee as soon as the state of the treasury may allow.

The meeting adjourned at 10.30 p.m., and was followed by a showing of a group of lantern slides of early tools and implements, some of which were unidentified. Mr. Loring McMillen, of the Staten Island Historical Museum, showed a series of slides dealing with "behind the scenes" activities of a community museum.

Metal Alloys

[Lack of space compels the omission from this issue of an instalment of this continued article. It will be concluded in the next issue.]

In England, a hundred years ago, in making rope for the government, it was customary to wind in a strand or two of flax with the hemp, to distinguish it as government property, and presumably to discourage theft.
—Whitlock's *Trades*.

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Quinabaug Village

An interesting project is on foot at Sturbridge, Massachusetts. We quote from the souvenir program of the Sturbridge Bicentennial, which was held on June 18th, 1938:

"It is proposed to incorporate an educational organization which shall construct and maintain a model New England village of about the year 1800—'Quinabaug Village' in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. This village will be built and run as nearly as possible as if it had been settled fairly early in the seventeenth century, and had a normally prosperous development throughout that and the ensuing century. * * *

Quinabaug Village will be open to the public and it is hoped that it will provide an educational experience of benefit to those members of the public who visit it—that from their visit they will come more fully to realize what New England civilization was and so what it has counted for, and to realize also that life here a hundred and fifty years ago was definitely worth living.

Precedents for the project exist in the recent reconstruction of Williamsburg, Virginia, of Greenfield Village, in Dearborn, Michigan, and other similar projects elsewhere in the United States and abroad. The object of the Williamsburg project has been stated that 'The present may learn from the past.' A similar ideal is behind the present modest project.

When finally complete to the extent of being open for exhibition, it is anticipated that the Village will comprise some half dozen public buildings, and a number of dwellings, stores and craft shops. There are planned a town house, a church, a school, a tavern, a library and other public buildings. They are to be largely centered around a village green with the dwellings and shops among them and around them. The crafts will be represented by a smithy, a shoe-maker, a clockmaker, a cabinet maker, a tinker, a silversmith, a pewterer, a gristmill, 'spec' and knife shops and other village crafts of the period. So far as is possible, the public buildings and the dwellings around the Common will be authentic as to design and the structural detail of the period. * * *

It is not contemplated that the Village will be simply an architectural

display of early New England Village buildings. What is sought to be recreated is not merely an eighteenth century village of brick, mortar, and timber, but a living eighteenth century village in which will be people living their lives, and earning their living, so far as is reasonably possible, by practicing their crafts as our eighteenth century ancestors were accustomed. Subsidiary to the recreation of this existence of our ancestors, there is planned the housing for safe keeping and exhibition purposes of certain existing collections of antique pieces, and future additions thereto.

Each craft project is being planned to follow somewhat the same formula. The clock-shop, for example, will be a little building, perhaps an exact replica of a late eighteenth-century clock-maker's shop. Here will be all the equipment found in such a shop, and clocks will probably be built here with early tools for demonstration purposes. In a back room, or an adjoining building will be modern equipment so that the clock-maker can, besides his demonstration work, do repairing on modern instruments. Near the shop will be the clock-maker's dwelling house. Outwardly, this will be in keeping architecturally with the rest of the village, but inside it will be a modern home designed for the comfort of the clock-maker and his family. Elsewhere, probably adjoining the shop, it is planned to have an exhibition of clocks to show the chronological development of American clock-making and to illustrate the finest products of the craft. Then in the mansion house, the farmhouse, and the tavern, the clock will be shown as it actually was intended to function in relation to other furnishings and to its architectural background. It is intended to carry out each project in substantially the same way.

In the cabinet-maker's or wood-working shop, furniture of early designs will not only be duplicated but repairs, restoration and refinishing of antique pieces will be undertaken in the very best manner.

Also, according to plans, an exhibition related to many crafts will be that devoted to the history of artificial lighting, which will be comprised of early European and American lighting devices. It is felt that the development of lighting is a subject so important in itself and in relation to early American life, that it will deserve a

special display. In addition to the exhibition, lighting devices of 1800 will be seen functioning in the houses open for exhibition, and the tinsmith, the blacksmith, the wood-turner, and the brasier, will, it is to be expected, show in turn how these were made.

To this end, some of the few remaining competent craftsmen who are still to be found in scattered places in New England will be asked to come, with their families, to make their homes in the Village and there to practice their crafts. Under them will be apprentices, younger men interested in learning their crafts and willing to undertake to carry them on in later years. These men and their families, together with shopkeepers and labourers will constitute the population of the Village.

The perpetuation of the New England crafts and cottage industry is quite as important a part of the project as the construction of the physical village. The project, broadly, is intended to depict, for the education and interest of the public, New England life much as it existed at the time that this country first took its place among the great nations of the world, and is also intended to be a museum where documents and objects of historical and artistic interest can be safely housed and displayed.

Designing and constructing the desired buildings and making the appropriate layout will require great wisdom and foresight. It is believed that the creators of Quinabaug Village can provide it. Moreover fiscal affairs present considerable problems.

Thus we have seen a broad plan of the proposed village of Quinabaug—in which can be pictured a typical New England town of the late eighteenth century complete with its public buildings and cottage shops, and inhabited by a group of the few remaining competent artisans who are still to be found in New England. At the same time, the educational value to the visitor will be enhanced by the plan to furnish the homes and public buildings in such a way that the visitor will see—not only segregated collections of antiques—but will also see the furnishings and implements in the homes, shops and buildings, functioning in the capacity for which they were actually intended. Thus, the sponsors feel that such a village taken as a whole, will accomplish a purpose that the ordinary endowed museum only partly succeeds in filling."

Early American Industries Association

Membership

Membership lists should be amended as follows: (N) indicates new member; (S) indicates non-member subscriber; (C) indicates change of address; (D) indicates decease; (R) indicates resignation; (Co) indicates correction.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington: Shannon, Herbert T., 3104 Cleveland Ave. (C)

INDIANA

La Porte: Schumm, Lorenz G., 302 C. St. (N)

MASSACHUSETTS

Attleboro: Hubbard, Howard G., 34 Old Post Road (C)

Belchertown: Knight, Herman C. (N)

Boston: Hodge, William R., 67 Kilby St. (N)

South Sudbury: Staples, Mrs. Charles J. (C)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Holderness: Webster, Frank G. (C)

Lisbon: Barbour, Alexander L. (C)

NEW YORK

Yonkers: Smith, H. Armour, 11 Halcyon Pl. (C)

RHODE ISLAND

Providence: Bacon, J. Earle, 113 Keene St. (N)

The Questionnaire

Questionnaires recently received have been tabulated as follows. For key to abbreviations, see page 7.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington: Herbert T. Shannon (C), 3104 Cleveland Ave. Collects FT, KH, TC only of Maryland and adjacent states. Wants LP. Write *. Visit (collection near Pearson, Md.)

MASSACHUSETTS

Needham: Sidney Stewart (C & D), 190 Nehorden St. Collects and deals in FT, KH, LD, TC. Write. Visit.

RHODE ISLAND

Wickford: South County Museum of Rhode Island (popularly called "Barn Museum"). Open 2-6 p.m. daily except Mondays, during June, July and August. Displays FI, FT, HF, KH, LD, MA, SI, SM, TA, TC, VE, WH, WM. Wishes to obtain early textiles (flax, wool or cotton), tools for making wooden water pipe, broom-making, cooperage, charcoal-burning. Wants LP. Write. Might be willing to exchange duplicates.

The Smoothing Board

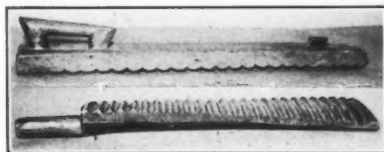
By MARY EARLE GOULD

A "moat point" was brought out in the June CHRONICLE and as I am to blame for starting the trouble, I must finish the discussion.

It happened that there hung in a shop an article, described by THE CHRONICLE as "a slab of wood, eighteen or twenty inches long and six or seven inches wide, with one surface smooth and the other whittled into a

series of deep corrugations running across its width, and usually provided with a whittled handle in prolongation of its long dimension" (see lower cut). The owner, an elderly lady, asked twenty dollars for it, because of its being a smoothing board and because it has two fine hex marks on it. Five dollars was taken off the price, but while waiting for my conscience to let me buy it, I wrote to the Editor of THE CHRONICLE for information about it. His answer was not of any help except to say that, in his opinion, the price was entirely out of line. He had not sufficient knowledge to go any farther than I had gone.

In my collection is a slab of wood which was a wash-board of early date. It shows wear and water marks. The corrugations were cut on a slant which allowed the water to run away from the hand when washing. So far, I was safe, and then came the story of the smoothing board. At just this crucial moment, Mr. Lawrence Romaine



SMOOTHING BOARDS

sent me a picture of a wooden board of a different type. I sent a check and the piece promptly arrived and it was a smoothing board. The handle stood out like a flat-iron handle and at the other end was a knob for the other hand to grasp (see upper cut). Going back to the shop again, where the board still hung, I learned that the elderly lady had a clothes stick which was used in connection with the smoothing board, and which she would not sell.

A Swedish nurse has now explained the smoothing board to me. It seems that, in those early days, both in the old country and over here, washing was a yearly affair. At the brook or in a tub, it mattered not where, the clothes were rubbed, whether on the rocks or on a wooden board. The smoothing, or what is known today as ironing, was done with the smoothing board and the stick. This stick was a roller the size of one's wrist and a yard long. The homespun linen was rolled over this tightly, much as a window shade is rolled on a roller. Then this smoothing board, with the handle and knob, rolled the wound stick back and forth

on the table. The corrugations caught the stick and kept it rolling. The nurse said that the cloth was smoother than any iron could ever make it, but the trick must have been in winding the cloth on to the rolling stick. She herself had done it when a child in her old home.

Some of the smoothing boards have an extending handle, but raised away from the level so that the hand would not drag on the table. The corrugations of the smoothing board are semi-circular, in cross section, while those of the wash-board are sharper, with a groove between. The one last earmark to look for is whether the board has been in water. If so, it was a wash-board and a stain can be noted, as well as a wear. Wood used for friction in rolling shows a darkened smoothness.

At one of my lectures, a wooden tankard was brought in by the present owner. It was tagged—"Grandmother's noggin". I explained that a tankard was a staved and hooped receptacle with a cover and a handle, and that a noggin was a wooden pitcher. A year later, the same owner was in another group and she still spoke of her "grandmother's noggin". My plea is an earnest one,—know your pieces and name them correctly. Whether it be glass, lamps, china or wood, inherited or otherwise acquired, make sure that you are calling it correctly. There is plenty of help now and, with every field being explored and, with so much research work being done, there is no excuse for those who are indifferently calling things by the wrong name. Do not let anything go incorrectly named, — rather not name it at all.

Mr. Roger Burlingame, author of the recently published *March of the Iron Men*, has presented a copy of this important book to the Association, as a token of his appreciation of what he characterizes in the preface, as our "valuable research work." He has also paid us the compliment of reproducing several illustrations from THE CHRONICLE. The book is a massive volume of some five hundred pages, and we regret that we have not space for an adequate review of it. Mr. Burlingame calls it "A Social History of Union Through Invention." It is a very scholarly — though readable — treatise on the vital part which inventive genius played in the industrial development of the United States.

The Chronicle

COMMUNICATIONS

The Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa., has recently acquired some old machinery used in making grain cradles, and would be grateful for any information as to where, when and by whom these cradles were made. [According to *The Story of Agriculture in the United States* (1916), by Albert H. Sanford, the grain cradle came into use about 1800, and *The Economic History of the United States* (1908), by Ernest L. Bogart, states that it was first patented in 1803. Probably the early ones were made with little or no resort to machinery. We remember seeing a catalogue of Ruggles, Nourse and Mason, a large Boston concern, dated 1847, with cuts of many of their factory-made articles, including grain-cradles. Our guess would be that, being in such general use, they were manufactured pretty much all over the country from 1800 to about 1860, and possibly at scattered points long after that time, but we would be glad of any more specific information on the subject. — Ed.]

Supplementing his most instructive address on Hadley Chests, at our annual meeting of 1937, Rev. C. F. Luther writes as follows:

"With the publication in 1935 of the Hadley Chest Book, listing one hundred and nine members of the family, it was a reasonable expectation that the final member had been approached, if not reached. The quest had included a rather comprehensive survey of the field, both in time and in space. The former had covered a period of about a dozen years and the latter practically the width of the continent. The number of chests then located had far surpassed the limits set by both Mr. Nutting and Mr. Erving, they surmising that perhaps some seventy examples might be found. In the *American Collector* of March, 1937, was published a story of the discovery of three additional chests, and in the year and more that has elapsed, two belated members have been brought to light, bringing the total to one hundred and fourteen. And even this may not be the *Ultima Thule*, since at this writing a correspondent in Chicago sends word of a possible addition in the Windy City. There is no wide deviation from the standard type, ex-

cept in the case of the S S chest formerly owned by Mr. Albert Newton Wheeler of New Haven, now the property of his son in Providence. It follows a pattern of ornamentation employed by a Connecticut maker, probably of Hartford, in the checker-board ornaments at the center of drawers and rails. It has one unusual feature, iron bail pulls which may or may not be original, the presumption being that they are of later date. It has not been my privilege as yet to examine the last two additions to the list and the photographs received do not do justice to the subjects. One now owned in New York, like several of its relatives, journeyed up the Connecticut into Vermont, finally joining the very considerable group in the metropolis. Hartford, however, still tops the list of cities in the number of both Hadley and Connecticut Sunflower chests owned. The last chest to come to light, the 114th, after a wandering career which took it out to the Western Reserve, was located by Mr. Devere Card in the vicinity of Utica. It, too, bears the initials M S, being the ninth to lose its identity under that alphabetical combination, though several of the number were indeed for Mary Smith, but which Mary may ever remain a mystery. Even with these additions the chapter may not be closed."

From MR. J. EARLE BACON:

"On August thirty-first, the South County Museum of Rhode Island gave a party. Members and friends were invited to a 'Horse and Buggy Day.' Vehicles of many kinds were on display — a chaise, an antique one-horse hearse, a 'cozy' or 'chummy' carriage, with four separate seats in the form of a semi-circle and a parasol basket at the back, road wagons, a sulky, a butcher's cart, a curtained station-wagon, of perhaps the eighteen-eightys, and sleighs of many kinds, including one slung by straps. A young woman in costume demonstrated combing, carding and spinning of wool and weaving on a slotted-board loom. Shingles were riven with frow and frow club and shaped on the old shaving horse. Split hoops for cooperage were being made and were displayed on the hand-shaped 'yaller-bark oak' hoop cone. The 'great wheel lathe'

was in operation. Horses occupied the stalls, goats blatted (if that is what they do) on the lawn, and an open brook burred down the hill-side to over-run the big granite watering trough.

A guessing contest proved popular. Ten items of common everyday use in Colonial times were displayed and it was significant that hardly anyone was able to correctly name more than one or two of the ten. The items were a tin nursing bottle, a plate-warmer, an ox-yoke pin, an ear trumpet, a bee box, a bird hook spit, a cast iron lady boot-jack, a coals-carrier, a straw-press for hat making, and a spit-curl iron.

The museum entertained more visitors in its new home during August than during the entire season of 1937. Possibly this proves that a location on a four-lane highway is not of paramount importance. Certainly the increasing interest in the customs of early New England is most encouraging."

From MR. JOSEPH E. SANDFORD:

"In THE CHRONICLE for January, 1936, Mr. Frank K. Swain asks what the Milan oven was which William Penn is said to have ordered built at Pennsylvania. This in a letter, dated August, 1684, written by Penn to his manager, James Harrison, and quoted by General W. W. Davis in a paper read at Pennsylvania, July 18th, 1882. If we consider that 'Milan' may be a misspelling of 'Malan' by Penn or Davis, the solution seems simple. *Malan-tree* is defined as 'The beam in front or across an open chimney' (J. O. Halliwell's *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words*, London, 1865). So 'Malan' is the same as 'mantel', and a Malan oven would be a mantel oven, i.e., one built under the mantel beside a fire-place. In this letter, Penn provides for a brew-house but makes no mention of a bake-house, common in 'noble houses' of the period. This suggests that the bread of Pennsylvania was to be baked in a kitchen oven beside the fireplace,—the mantel oven."

FOR SALE — Many old farm and household implements, including very old winnowing machine, sleigh, baby cart, wheel chair, ploughs, churns, grinders, etc. Robert Stoughton, U. S. Route 5, near Conn. 140 intersection, East Windsor, Conn. Telephone, Windsor Locks 281-2.

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